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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Report referenced in the Attachment

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East Bohemian Chemical Works, National Enterprise, Rybitvi

1. The East Bohemian Chemical Works, National Enterprise, at Rybitvi near Pardubice, produced organic dyes, dye intermediates, pharmaceuticals, and bearing metals. These works were formerly part of the United Chemical Works, Rybitvi Plant, and were subordinate to the general management of the United Chemical Works in Prague II. After the dissolution of the United Chemical Works and the reorganization of the chemical industry on 1 January 1950, the Rybitvi plant became the main plant of the East Bohemian Chemical Works, an independent national enterprise directly subordinate to the Ministry of Chemical Industry in Prague II.

2. The Rybitvi Plant was built by the United Chemical Works. With the loss of the border areas in 1938, including the chemical plant in Usti, the United Chemical Works no longer had a plant engaged in coal-tar dye production. As a result, it was decided to build additional facilities. Ing. DOHNALEK, an executive of the United Chemical Works, assisted by Ing. PELANT, chief of the Machinery Department of the United Chemical Works, was charged with working out construction plans for the new plant. Others who cooperated in the construction planning were technicians PRIBORSKY and CERVINKA, both of whom were employed with Chemoprojekt; Ing. DOHNALEK, with the Ministry of Chemical Industry in Prague [redacted], was 50X1 in charge of the construction; the work in Rybitvi was actually supervised by Mr. VALENTA, chief of the Construction Department of the United Chemical Works, who was with Chemoprojekt [redacted] 50X1 50X1 [redacted]. Construction of the Rybitvi Plant was begun in the spring of 1939 and finished in 1943; production was immediately begun.

3. The Rybitvi Plant consisted of three large, main production buildings patterned after the Bata installations (Ing. DOHNALEK was with the Bata concern in Zlin at one time). These buildings were each about 100 m. long and about 6 stories high; they were covered with red

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stucco. The only modification of this plant after World War II was the addition of more equipment and setting up the research institute. The production of dyes and intermediate products in Rybitvi was originally planned on a larger scale, but because of shortage of building materials during World War II, and since the Usti plant 50X1 which had been German, was returned to Czechoslovakia, these plans were dropped. Originally there were no plans to produce anything other than dyes and pharmaceuticals in the Rybitvi plant.

4. The Rybitvi plant was connected by a siding to the main railroad line and station at Rosice nad Labem, and it had good highway connections to Pardubice and Bohdanec. The Elbe was not navigable at this point. Boiler and furnace facilities at the Synthesia plant /see paragraph 16/ were used jointly by the Rybitvi plant, Synthesia, and UMA in Semtin. Water for the Rybitvi plant was drawn from the Elbe River, into which waste from the plant was drained. The machinery which was bought in Germany was new at the time of the plant's construction.

5. The only raw materials the Rybitvi plant needed from abroad were pharmaceutical raw materials, materials for bearing metals, and 300 tn. of ground sulphur per year, the latter needed for dye production. The main source of raw materials for the Rybitvi plant was the Chemical Works in Ostrava, which supplied naphthalene, benzene, betanaphthol, and toluene.

6. The Rybitvi plant produced the following: coal tar dye intermediates, coal tar dyes, sulphur dyes, pharmaceuticals such as insulin, codein, opiates, vaccines, etc., flints, and bearing 50X1 metals. The finished products could not compare with the quality of the same goods in the West. Two-thirds of the 50X1 exports went to Area I and II and only one-third to Areas V and 50X1 VII. Pharmaceutical products were almost exclusively for domestic needs.

a. The production of bearing metals was regulated by the plan of heavy machinery production. Metalimex was responsible for supplying the necessary metals. The bearing metals were used mainly to supply the needs of the Czechoslovak State Railways (CSD). Worn-out bearings were returned to the Rybitvi plant as scrap.

b. Coal tar dyes were used mainly for domestic needs, particularly of the textile, leather, lacquer, and paper industries. Sulphur dyes were similarly used. Part of the dye production was exported, but the quality of the dyes did not measure up to German, Swiss, or US products. 50X1
50X1 Three hundred tons of ground sulphur were used each year in the production of sulphur dyes. Ground sulphur was delivered for six to seven 50X1 crowns per kilogram, on a barter trade basis. Delivery price was 7.15 crowns per kilogram, which represented a loss, because delivery price included transportation costs to the RR station at destination, while purchase price included delivery at
50X1

c. The production of flints just satisfied domestic needs, because there was a shortage of monazite sand.

7. More than 1,000 persons were employed at the Rybitvi plant, most of whom were well qualified and had worked in the Usti plant before the German annexation of the Czechoslovak border countries in 1938.

Many of the plant employees lived in a large development of one-family houses, built by the plant. Some of these houses were built at the same time as the plant; the remainder were being constructed 50X1 by a construction cooperative, Chemostav. Chemostav also built living quarters at other plants of the former United Chemical Works.

8. Manager of the Rybitvi plant was Ing. HERYNK, who went to work for the United Chemical Works shortly before World War II. He was a devoted Communist. Ing. STEPAN, head of the pharmaceutical department, joined the United Chemical Works with the Chrast plant. He is well qualified and is not a Communist. Dr. Ing. WANKA, who had been with the United Chemical Works for years, headed the laboratories at the Rybitvi plant. He had been persecuted by the Communists. The laboratories at Rybitvi conducted analyses of materials furnished the chemical industry by Chemapol and made decisions as arbiter in cases of differences of opinion between Chemapol and the factories. Much of the credit for setting up technical facilities at the Rybitvi plant went to production technicians Dr. BILL and Dr. SMISEK, who returned to the Usti plant after the war and were in charge of the coal tar dye production.

9. Security measures at the Rybitvi plant were the same as at other 50X1 chemical plants The plant had its own workers' militia and fire department.

Research Institute, Ministry of Chemical Industry

10. Production of the Rybitvi plant was not the most important activity that took place at the plant. The more important aspect was the research program. Here the Czechoslovak chemical industry had its only research institute; it was excellently equipped. This institute was built as a research institute for the United Chemical Works. In 1946 it was taken over by the Czechoslovak Chemical Works and its equipment improved. It came under the Ministry of 50X1 Chemical Industry after the Czechoslovak Chemical Works were dissolved. not know whether the Research Institute for Plastics was a part of the Rybitvi institute or if it was a separate institute in the Synthesia plant. (A faculty of chemistry was set up in Pardubice, which also used the research facilities at the Rybitvi plant.) The head of chemical research with the former Czechoslovak Chemical Works and later with the Ministry of Chemical Industry was the former general manager of the United Chemical Works, Dr. ETTEL. In the summer of 1952 Dr. ETTEL was relieved of his position, 50X1

East Bohemian Chemical Works, Branch Plant at Potstejn

11. The Potstejn /N 50-05, E 16-19/ Chemical Factory /See Enclosure A/ was set up by the United Chemical Works in 1940 in an old textile plant which was rebuilt. The plant remained the property of the United Chemical Works until January 1950 when it was subordinated to the East Bohemian Chemical Works. During World War II the Potstejn Factory (at that time Potstejn Licocel) produced various woven household goods, paper string, net bags, nets, camouflage nets for the German Wehrmacht during the War. After the War this paper production was restricted because of lack of demand and the plant ceased operations in 1948. In 1950 the plant started production of aluminates, silver dyes, gold and silver bronze, bronze of various colors, special and polishing bronze, lithographic bronze, and varnish. This production was started at this plant because of the liquidation of such production in the Roztoky /N 50-10, E 14-24/ Chemical Plant 50X1 Most of the production of the Potstejn Factory was

destined for domestic lacquer production and for the printing industry. About 76 tons of finished products were set aside each year for export mostly to the Satellites; only about one-third went to Area V countries. The products were of very good quality.

12. The Potstejn Plant had its own facilities for burning brown coal, and had a railway siding. The plant was located across the tracks from the Potstejn Railway Station. The plant also has excellent highway connections.

13. The Potstejn Plant had 120 employees. Dr. SLEMR, formerly with the Roztoky Plant, was head of production; his office was in the main plant in Rybitvi.

East Bohemian Chemical Works, Branch Plant Duha in Prague

14. Until 1948, Duha was a private company making dyes for household use and for cleaning and dyeing establishments. The plant was nationalized in 1948 and made a part of the United Chemical Works in Prague. In early 1950, it became a branch plant of the East Bohemian Chemical Works.

East Bohemian Chemical Works, Branch Plant Chrast

15. Until 1950, the Chrast /N 49-54, E 15-56/ Plant /Enclosure B/ was a part of the United Chemical Works in Prague II. It made pharmaceuticals. Until 1939, the plant belonged to Dr. HEISLER, Chrast. After the German occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1939, he sold the plant to the United Chemical Works and emigrated to the US. Ing. STEPAN became the manager; [redacted] he was with the Rybitvi plant. After the more important equipment was moved to Rybitvi, production at the Chrast plant was insignificant, and there were no plans to expand it. 50X1

Synthesia, National Enterprise

16. In Semtin close to the Rybitvi Chemical Factory, there were two other chemical works: Synthesia, National Enterprise, and UMA, National Enterprise. These two plants had nothing in common administratively with the East Bohemian Chemical Works. However, all three plants used the boiler facilities in the Synthesia Factory.

17. The Synthesia plant in Semtin (near Pardubice) was formerly under the direct control of the Ministry of National Defense. After 1945, other plants were added, thereby creating the country's second largest chemical national enterprise, with the general management in Prague II, Skretova ulice 3. Synthesia was under the Czechoslovak Chemical Works in Prague II, Stepanska 30. As of 1 January, 1950, Synthesia again became an independent plant, directly under the Ministry of Chemical Industry in Prague II. The enterprise produced explosives, gun powder, igniter fuses, nitrocellulose, sulphuric acid, Cyklon B, potassium cyanide, sodium cyanide, tempering salts, and mono-, di-, and trisodium phosphate.

18. Synthesia's Semtin plant, using its full capacity, processed 9,000 tons of pyrites annually in the production of sulphuric acid. No special grade of pyrites were needed; both flotation and crystalline pyrites were used. The Semtin plant was supplied mostly from domestic sources. Imported pyrites came in via Hamburg, down the Elbe to Usti and then by rail. Most of the imported pyrites came from Norway. The Semtin plant paid 1,060 crowns for one ton dry weight of pyrites, containing 48% sulphur. Included in this price was the delivery of the pyrites by railroad car to Rosice nad Labem /N 49-55, E 15-57/. Roasted pyrites were the property of Synthesia,

and were shipped exclusively to Vitkovice (Ostrava). Sulphuric acid, produced in Semtin, was used only for further processing in the plant.

19. Synthesia's Semtin plant processed 250 tn. of raw phosphate annually in the production of mono-, di-, and trisodium phosphate. The plant could process raw phosphate from the USSR or France. The price was the same as for other plants, that is, 3,146 crowns for one ton "P_2O_5" dry weight, delivered at destination.

20. Synthesia had a steam plant and also furnished steam power to the Rybitvi plant. The plant was connected to the Rosice railway station by a siding, and drew its water from the Elbe River.

21. Synthesia had its own large laboratories, [redacted] not sure whether it had its own research institute or whether such work was conducted in the Rybitvi research center. 50X1

22. Security measures in the Synthesia plant were very strict; entrance was gained only by permission of the Ministry of National Defense. The plant had its own militia.

UMA, National Enterprise

23. The UMA plant made plastics, hardened paper and fibres (under such trade names as Umatex, Umacart), all strengths and colors of celluloid, artificial leather, artificial horn products, Plexiglass, Igelite, Vinidur, dinitro-o-cresol, and ammonium carbonate. UMA had two branch plants: UMA, National Enterprise, Satalice near Prague, and Servotechna, Prague IX, Podebradska 3, which also included a production building in Prague II, Klimova 23.

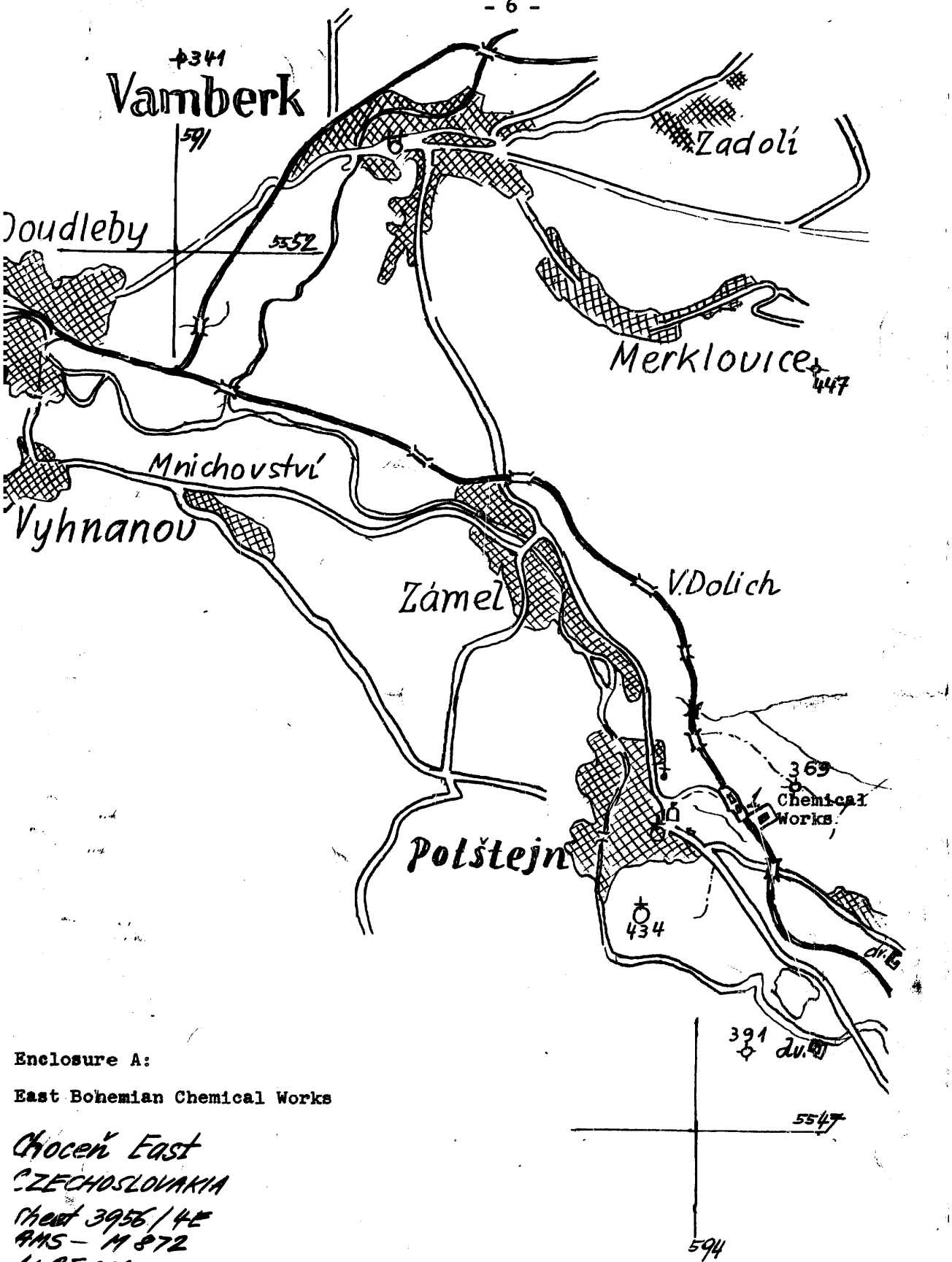
24. In 1951, the country's largest press for plastics was installed in the UMA plant in Semtin. It was brought from West Germany as part of reparations. The press was so large that it could not be transported by rail and was transported via Hamburg on the Elbe.

25. Security measures were identical to those at Synthesia.

Enclosures:

A. East Bohemian Chemical Works, Potstejn

B. East Bohemian Chemical Works, Chrast



Enclosure A:

East Bohemian Chemical Works

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Sheet 3956/4E
AMS - M 872
1: 25,000.

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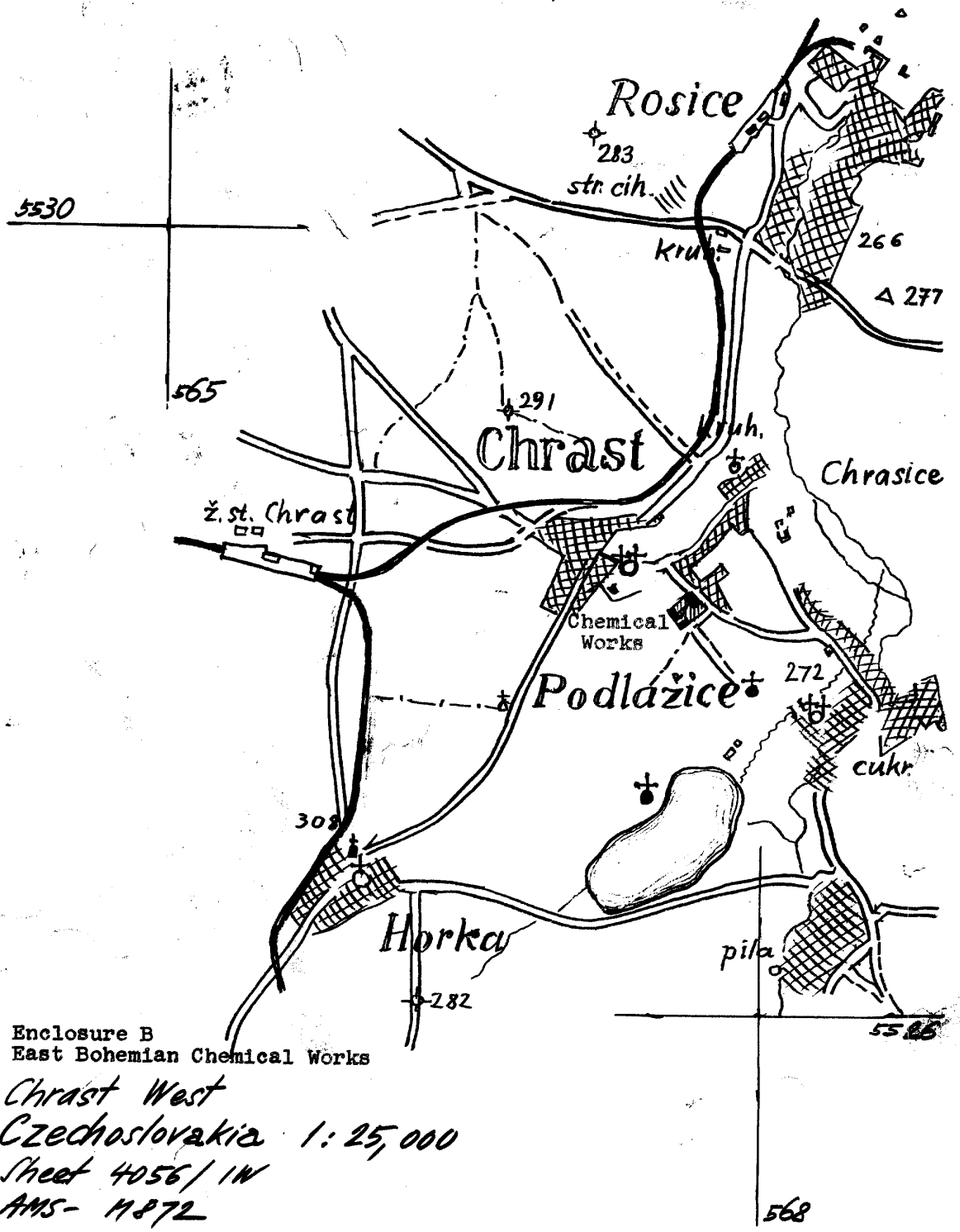

Enclosure B
East Bohemian Chemical Works

Chrast West
Czechoslovakia 1:25,000
Sheet 4056/IV
AMS- M872